

Closure of National Iron and Steel Company, Belur, Howrah

4884 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the national Iron and Steel Company, Belur, Howrah is still continuing the closure,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and

(c) whether any attempt has been made by Government to re open it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) According to the Steel Rolling Mills Association of which this firm is a member, general recession during 1965-67, low prices for steel sections, shortage of orders especially for wagon castings, and labour problems resulted in its closure in January, 1968. The factory was re opened in May 1969, but could not be fully operated. As the firm could not retrench labour and staff, they continued to incur losses, which resulted in its closure in October, 1970.

(c) According to the Association efforts are being made to re-open the unit with the financial assistance of Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India and technical cum financial collaboration with M/s Garden Reach Workshops

The Government of India have received requests for taking action under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. These are under consideration

Special Assistance to Bihar, Rajasthan and U P for Irrigation Facilities

4885 SHRI R S PANDEY Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have offered special assistance to Bihar, Rajasthan and U P to provide irrigation facilities in areas where drought conditions are still prevalent, and

(b) if so the amount offered to each of the aforesaid States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) (a) and (b) Rural Works Programme is a special programme introduced during the Fourth Plan period to take up productive and labour intensive schemes in the chronically drought affected areas of the country. Medium and minor irrigation works have first priority under the Programme followed by soil conservation, afforestation and communications. So far, 54 districts in 13 States have been identified as chronically drought affected. Each of these districts would have an allocation of Rs 2 crores during the Fourth Plan period. Of these, three are in Bihar, six in Uttar Pradesh and ten in Rajasthan State. The amounts sanctioned for minor irrigation schemes during 1970-71 which was the first year of the Programme—and for some of the districts during the current financial year in these three States are

STATE	Rs. in lakhs Amount sanctioned	
	1970-71	1971-72
Bihar	1.00	10.00
Rajasthan	117.08	—
Uttar Pradesh	27.50	184.56